



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 5, 2020**

My name is Shannon King, government affairs associate for CBIA, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of our member companies are small businesses, with less than 100 employees.

CBIA supports **SB 10 An Act Concerning Recommendations Regarding Climate Change** with caution.

Climate change has, and will, significantly impact how business is done in our state and around the world. Connecticut employers continue to implement their own innovative sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation strategies and we applaud their efforts. While we appreciate the administration's focus on this critical issue, we would like to caution the committee as this legislation is drafted.

Energy costs are one of the most important considerations for running a business in Connecticut. Our state has some of the highest energy costs in the nation—62% higher than the national average. Businesses of all sizes and industries need stability and predictability in managing operating costs. As this legislation develops, we urge the committee to consider the impact new energy and environmental policies have on ratepayers and ensure transparency around potential price increases on commercial as well as residential customers.

Section 1 of the bill allows DEEP to assess the energy, environmental, and air quality impacts of adopting California's medium and heavy duty vehicle emission standards. We caution the committee to consider the impact adopting California's vehicle emission standards will have on Connecticut businesses that purchase and register medium and heavy duty vehicles in the state. Purchasing trucks with this new standard will be more expensive—particularly for small and medium sized businesses—putting them at a competitive disadvantage, impacting their bottom line, and potentially increasing the cost of their products. Businesses may also opt to buy their medium and heavy duty vehicles out of state, resulting in a loss of revenue to Connecticut.

We look forward to collaborating with the committee and members of the General Assembly on this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.